

## REPORT

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The number of calamity-stricken people in northern Anhwei increased to 4,800,000 when a flood inundated 13,420,527 mou of farm land in the summer of 1949. Before the flood damage was completely repaired, the river channels were blocked off in northern Huai-hai area. Again in the autumn of the same year, the Shao Ho, Wo Ho, Tzu Ho, Yellow River, Ch'uan Ho, and Pei Ho overflowed in the Cho-yang Special District. In the Su Hsien Special District, the heavy continuous rain brought three floods to the Sui Ho, T'ang Ho, K'uei Ho, Ch'u Ho, and Sung Ho, covering the local flatland by more than 3 feet of water. The late autumn crops were completely ruined. Furthermore, the heavy winter snow melted and destroyed many wheat and barley fields.

The people in the famine areas have no food at all according to the North Anhwei Production for Relief Unit. Except for a few rich people, whose food stocks include only rice, sugar, and bran, all others subsisted on wild vegetables and grass until they were depleted. Now they are satisfying their hunger by eating "Goddess of Mercy" clay.

In the last 2 or 3 months, many people in the famine areas have died from such infectious diseases as relapsing fever, meningitis, smallpox, measles, diphtheria, and kalaazar. According to a source in Shanghai, the number of deaths in a one-month period recently totaled one million in the northern Anhwei area. Another cause for the deaths of so many people is that neither the central nor local governments have the means or the plans to deliver food effectively to the starving millions.

The CCP authorities think that production should be carried out as a means of combating famine. The Shanghai leaders think that the hungry should be fed before making them participate in the production program.

At present, it seems that no one knows how to help the starving and dying people. Famine conditions seem to become worse each day in East China and North China, and especially in the northern Anhwei area.

CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE MEETS -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 13 Mar 50

Peiping, 11 March (Hsin-hua) -- The second meeting of the Central Relief Committee was held in Peiping today. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Central People's government, All-China Federation of Labor, All-China Democratic Youth League, All-China Democratic Women's Federation, and the Relief Headquarters for the Liberated Areas.

It was decided to organize two teams to make a tour of inspection of Shantung, northern Kiangsu, Pingyuan, and Anhwei calamity areas.

SHANGHAI ORGANIZES RELIEF COMMITTEE -- Shanghai Wen-hui Pao, 15 Apr 50

The Shanghai Austerity-Relief Movement Committee was formally established on 14 April. Ch'en-Ssu-sheng (Ueda: 12864, 2784, 7461) was appointed the chairman and Li Wen-chieh (4735, 4321, 450) was elected the general manager of the committee.

AIDS BOMBING VICTIMS -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 12 Mar 50

Shanghai, 9 March (Hsin-hua) -- The Shanghai Military Control Commission has established the Shanghai Production for Relief Committee to help the people affected by enemy bombings in the city. Yen Hui-ch'ing (Ueda: 13380, 3366, 3474) was appointed the chairman of the committee.

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CANTON SETS UP RELIEF UNIT -- New York Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 22 Apr 50

Canton -- On 4 April 1950, the Kwangtung Province Relief Committee was established in Canton. The committee will be placed in charge of all relief work in the province. Ku Ta-ts'un (Ueda: 1142, 1946, 2268) was appointed to head the committee.

FAMINE IN KWANGTUNG -- Hong Kong Kung-shang Jih-pao, 11 Mar 50

Te-ch'ing -- The people in Te-ch'ing Hsien of western Kwangtung Province are suffering from famine. In this mountainous area, where soil is mostly sandy and infertile, there is not much hope of getting food until spring. The populace has no grain left because of the forced borrowing by the CCP. Some are eating one or two meals a day while others are sustaining themselves by eating distiller's grains and grass roots.

HELPS FAMINE VICTIMS -- Shanghai Wen-hui Pao, 15 Apr 50

Wu-hsi -- At the fourth meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Wu-hsi all-circles conference, held on 12 April, it was decided to establish the Wu-hsi Relief Solicitation Committee. The committee will conduct a city-wide campaign to get relief grain for the calamity-stricken people in Southern Kiangsu to tide them over the spring famine so they can begin spring plowing.

SENDS GRAIN TO HELP STARVING POPULACE -- Wu-hsi Su-nan Jih-pao, 15 Apr 50

Chen-chiang -- To help the famine-stricken people in the Yao-ch'iao area in Tan-t'u Hsien and T'ai-p'ing-hsiang of the Hsin-pa area in Yang-chung Hsien, all in Kiangsu Province, another load of rice, amounting to 250,000 cattles, will be sent from Yang-chung, Chiang-ning, Lien-shui, Tan-t'u, Tan-yang, Chu-jung hsiens and from Chen-chiang city. Deaths from starvation are increasing in the affected areas. Many are existing by eating "Goddess of Mercy" clay.

SU-CHOU ESTABLISHES REFUGEE REPATRIATION UNIT -- Shanghai Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 15 Apr 50

Su-chou -- To carry out a plan to send refugees and unemployed home to pursue production, the Su-chou municipal government established the Dispersion Working Committee recently.

Since the start of the dispersion work on 1 March, some 1,116 refugees have been sent home to their respective provinces.

DISSOLVES REFUGEE REPATRIATION UNIT -- Shanghai Wen-hui Pao, 15 Apr 50

On 14 April, the Shanghai committee on Repatriation of Refugees to Pursue Production for Relief was dissolved. Some 23,000 displaced persons, refugees from famine areas, and others were sent to their respective domiciles between September 1949 and March 1950.

CHRISTIANS NEGOTIATING RELIEF -- Hong Kong Kung-shang Jih-pao, 22 Mar 50

According to the Chung-kuo She dispatch, some 20 Christian representatives in Hong Kong held a meeting on 28 March to discuss means to help the calamity-stricken people of China. The meeting was presided over by Magill, representing the North American YMCA. It was decided to wire the National

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Christian Council of Shanghai requesting information on actual conditions in famine areas. After the receipt of an answer from Shanghai, the group will meet again to discuss the relief methods to be used and the promotion of a fund-raising and food-distribution campaign.

SENDS ANOTHER LETTER TO PEIPING GOVERNMENT -- Hong Kong Hsin-sheng Wan-pao, 30 Mar 50

Hong Kong, 29 March -- Recently a federation of 25 Chinese and foreign charity agencies in Hong Kong sent a letter to the Central People's government in Peiping to ask the best means to help 15 million calamity-stricken people in North and Central China. The letter was sent in the name of Reverend Ronald Hall, a bishop of Hong Kong, and addressed to Tung Pi-wu, deputy chairman of the People's government.

Another letter was forwarded to the Board of Directors of the National Christian Council of Shanghai to ask for reports on actual conditions in famine areas and to urge the People's government to accept the help of foreign countries in assisting the calamity-stricken people of China.

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